that Doordarshan broadcast programmes highlighting the country's heritage and glorious past on different occasions.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that M/s. Nanda Devi Films has offered the said film for telecast on Doordarshan and that the firm has been asked to submit a tape of the films to facilitate its preview.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Launching of Mausam channel

337. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to launch a joint venture new twenty four hour Mausam channel to forecast weather conditions across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this channel would forecast weather conditions at district levels; and

(d) to what extent this would be useful especially to the farmers, traders and the tourists?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that they are not considering any proposal to launch any such channel. However, Department of Science and Technology are considering a proposal to start a dedicated weather Channel in the next 2-3 years. The feasibility of launching this channel is being explored in consultation with leading TV channels in the country. The proposed channel will benefit the whole society including the farmers.

Effect of failure of satellite on broadcasting

338. DR. M. A. M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the failed launch of the satellite the development in broadcasting has suffered a set back;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the future course of action to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The current confirmed broadcasting requirements are being met by ISRO.

Indian labourers in Gulf countries

339. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any action to combat the increasing incidents of labour unrest, living condition and ill treatment to the Indian labour in the Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the details of the action and results thereof; and

(c) the number of Indian workers are at present working in Gulf countries like UAE, Saudia Arabia and Malaysia separately?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) With a view to curb the exploitation of Indian workers going abroad for employment, it has been made mandatory *w.e.f.* 15.11.2003 for the Recruiting Agents to submit all the employment documents, *viz.*, demand letter, power of attorney and specimen employment contract in original for obtaining emigration clearance. Further, in respect of vulnerable categories of workers, *i.e.*, unskilled labour and housemaids/domestic workers, these employment documents are required to be attested by the concerned Indian Mission (s). In addition, our Missions have, with the help of Community Welfare Associations and other community support groups, been providing legal assistance/ counselling to protect the interests of Indian workers.

(c) A statement indicating the number of Indians working in the Gulf countries is enclosed, (*See* below). Malaysia has about 1.37 lakh Indian workers.